

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 54

October 2007

No. 8



Calendar

Wed., Oct. 24	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBA	Mon., Nov. 12	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Sat., Oct. 27	Large item pickup; Pumpkin carving, basketball court, 1 pm; Haunted Porcupine Woods, 7–8:30 pm (see p 2)	Tues., Nov. 13	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Mon., Oct. 29	Last weekly pickup of yard waste; GP CAN meeting, 4406 Oxford Street (see p 10)	Thurs., Nov. 15	Casual Musicians Club jam, Town Hall, 9 pm
Wed., Oct. 31	Halloween Parade, 1:30-ish (see pp 3, 10); trick or treat night	Sat., Nov. 17	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; Last Farmers' Market at Penn Place for the year; "Knit One, Cure One" Breast Cancer Craft Fair Fundraiser, 12–5 pm, 10716 Montrose (see p 4)
Thurs., Nov. 1	Casual Musicians Club jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun., Nov. 18	GPNS Art & Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm
Sat., Nov. 3	GIVES collection, Penn Place, 9 am–1 pm (see p 7)	Thurs., Nov. 22	Happy Thanksgiving!
Mon., Nov. 5	Monthly yard-waste pickup	Wed., Nov. 28	Citizens Assoc. Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, topic TBA
Fri., Nov. 9	Deadline for submitting names for baby-sitting/snow-shoveling (see p 2)		

Contentiousness at Council Meeting

So, exactly how do you address a member of the Town Council? Do you say, "Hi, Beth" (or Jack, Chuck, Solange, or Hans)? Perhaps you should be more deferential, with a "Good morning, Councilmember." Or is the proper salutation soon to be "Will the defendant please rise?"

Without question, the impeachment debate in Garrett Park has gone from contentious to nasty.

As you will recall, the Council in September voted to hold a town referendum on the impeachment of President Bush and Vice President Cheney. But, in a letter dated October 2, the Mayor and Council explained that the Council, it had been determined, had not actually voted properly on the motion for a referendum, and in addition, it lacked the authority to order that vote. Case closed, right? Well, if you believe that one,

(continued next page)

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(continued from previous page)
then you probably still think Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

At the October Council meeting, the issue boiled over. To begin with, Hans Wegner did one of the rarest things in politics, whether on a national or local level: He apologized. Hans expressed his remorse if the Council’s actions or its communications had made it look like “we’re washing our hands” of the impeachment issue. But, as Mayor Shawaker and several others added, the Council must act within the law.

Led principally by Warren Kornberg, proponents of the impeachment resolution weren’t willing to take “illegal” for an answer. The intent of the Council ought to be taken in to account, Warren said. It was not the intent of the body to kill the resolution, which should still receive a Council vote. And, he asked: Why have more than 80 other communities across the United States—including our nuclear-free compatriot Takoma Park—passed similar resolutions without allegations of extra-legal behavior? And exactly what law prohibits the town’s actions?

Unfortunately, the answers were halting, disjointed, and, at best, partial. It soon came out why. A Garrett Park resident has retained an attorney, who sent a letter to the Mayor and each Councilmember alleging specific areas of state law violated by the vote to hold a referendum, which appeared to suggest a possible lawsuit.

With thoughts of legal bills dancing in their heads, it’s no wonder that Councilmembers seemed anxious to put this issue in the past. But proponents weren’t so fast to let go. Pressed one time too many by suggestions that the Council is ducking the issue out of fear, Jack Mandel let loose. “Don’t call us chicken,” he said loudly. Come back, he said, with something that fits within the limits of what the Council is capable of doing.

And that means that the impeachment resolution may come down to just three words: to be continued.

Richard Folkers

Call for Jobs List

Global warming may not last—another ice age may surprise us! So if you are 13 years and up and would like to make some money around town, please step forward and sign up as a snow-shoveler (or baby-sitter, or other chore-doer). Send me your name, phone number, age, jobs you would like to do, and any qualifications (such as training courses or certification). Call or e-mail me by November 9.

Carol Davies

Halloween Festivities Coming

Come down to the basketball courts by Penn Place at 1 pm for pumpkin carving on Saturday, October 27. Bring your own pumpkin, carving tools, and a trash bag. The carved jack o’lanterns will be lit at 6:30 pm to set the scene for the Haunted Woods. Awards will be given and candles provided.

The haunting of Porcupine Woods will begin at dark. Little goblins will be admitted first into the “Woods Less Scary.” The Black Market and the Garrett Park Citizens Association will provide light refreshments during the event.

Volunteers are needed for these events. If you are interested in adding your frightening touch to the Haunted Woods or otherwise helping out, please contact Matt Stavish.

We’re Still Green!

Our banner this month is from an anonymous donor who wishes to dedicate it to our troops in Iraq as well as those killed in action. Many thanks.

We only need one more donation to fill in the rest of the printing year. Anyone else want to join in keeping us in the “green”? Send a check made out to the Citizens Association to Mary Moyer, Box 98, and many thanks.

Mary Moyer

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Town Administrator Notes

Halloween Parade: The Garrett Park Elementary School’s annual Halloween Parade steps off from the school at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, October 31. In order to protect the marchers, Kenilworth and Montrose from Strathmore to Oxford will be closed to all but residents from a little after 1 pm until the parade is concluded, probably by 2 pm. Oxford between Kenilworth and Montrose will also be closed. Temporary “No Parking” zones will also be set up along the parade route. If you plan to watch the parade, please walk, if at all possible, so that congestion in the area can be kept to a minimum.

Leaf Removal: Autumn is fast upon us and soon the leaves will be falling thick and fast. As before, Bethke Landscaping will be removing leaves for the town, starting the week of October 15 and continuing until December 31. Each street will be cleared once every week, as early in the week as possible (rain will delay collections). Leaves should be placed in rows along the curb. Please remove sticks, trash, and other debris that could damage the machinery. Please do not shred the leaves or put out grass clippings. If you have any problems, call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

Trash Collection after Holidays: The following holidays are observed by our trash contractor: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas. When any of those days falls on a collection day, the missed collection is not made up, and the collection will be on its next normal scheduled day. If a Monday is missed, trash is collected on Thursday, and yard waste and recycling are collected on the next Monday. Missed Thursday trash will be collected on the following Monday.

Yard Waste Removal: Remember, from November through February, yard waste will be collected the first Monday of each month only. That dependable harbinger of spring, weekly collection, will resume in March.

Children and Leaves: Please warn your children not to play in the leaves piled along the street for removal. There is considerable risk of being hit by a car, even on Garrett Park’s quiet streets. If you are driving near a pile of leaves, treat it as you would a ball rolling into the street. Assume a child is nearby and likely to run into the street.

Security at Home: Most of you may have seen the Alert posted on October 9 regarding money stolen from a home on Weymouth. The thief had entered through the unlocked front door. I want to reiterate that you should always keep your doors locked. Garrett Park is happily a very safe place, but we are part of a larger urban environment, and hundreds of strangers pass through our town each day. As Poor Richard advises, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Ted Pratt
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Art at Penn Place

The gallery at Penn Place has shown the works of local painters, photographers, and graphic artists. The current show features yet another kind of creative talent: the practical art of the architect. The photographs and drawings in the exhibit illustrate the work of Bob Reinhardt, one of a number of architects who live, or have lived, in Garrett Park. It is the architect’s role to take the practical needs and the aesthetic desires of a client and turn them into three-dimensional spaces that are creative and pleasing to look at and live in. A building must not just be successful internally, but must also harmonize with its neighbors and with the landscape. Bob’s practice is focused on residential architecture, and the panels in the exhibit illustrate a variety of houses, additions, and renovations, large and small. The photographs capture the “feel” of the spaces he has created, while the drawings show how these spaces relate to one another in plan.

Bob was born in Buffalo, New York, where he grew up around carpenters and people who worked with their hands. His maternal grandfather was a cabinet maker. This experience made him comfortable and compatible with people who build things, and eventually led him to a bachelor’s and master’s degree in architecture from Catholic University. He worked with a number of firms in the metropolitan area, including that of pioneering female architect Clothiel Woodard Smith. Bob has run his own firm for the last 25 years. Most of that time, he has practiced out of his home on Kenilworth Avenue.

Bob emphasizes the importance of communication in identifying both the practical needs of the clients, and also the visual characteristics that they want their new spaces to have. Drop by the main floor gallery to see how Bob has translated his client’s goals into spaces that range from dramatic to cozy. Some of his projects have received design awards and others have been published in a variety of shelter magazines.

Visit Garrett Park’s Web site:
www.garrettpark.org/



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Newcomers Abound

At the Newcomers Welcome on September 30, a good turnout of Garrett Parkers came to welcome newcomers to our community. Members of the Citizens Association hosted the event, with members of the Town Council introducing themselves, and telling a little about the life of a Garrett Parker.

We gleaned the following information on several newcomers:

Grant Peacock lives on Montrose as of 4 months ago. Originally from Australia, he has that wonderful Australian accent. He works in television production in Washington, D.C.

Doreen and Rick Siegel are now in 10818 Kenilworth (the former Harris house), having moved from Potomac. They have seven adult children and decided they need a smaller place to call home. She works at Kaiser, and he at the National Labor Relations Board. They also have Spencer, an English Springer Spaniel, whom they like to walk around the neighborhood.

Adam Darkins and Laura Dickson are now in 10902 Clermont Avenue (the former Holland house). She came from Tenleytown and he from Randolph Hills, so they know the area quite well. Laura works as a librarian, and Adam is a physician of neurology who now works in the information technology field.

Sandy and Erik Morrison have moved into 10907 Clermont Place (formerly Bob Calvert's). They also have two sons (3 and 2 months) in the house with them. Erik is an architect with Gensler Company, and Sandy is a consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. (Yes, all one word!)

Daniel Smith and Audrey Levine live at 11207 Kenilworth (formerly the Fredericks') with their 14-year-old son. They moved here from Florida and work for the EPA.

Michael Specter lives in 10713 Weymouth (formerly Sylvia Lichtenstein's house) with their daughter, a freshman at BCC. He is a lawyer, and came to us from far-off Friendship Heights.

Mike and Carol Collela just moved into 4711 Oxford Street, and found us by way of Kensington.

Sue Garrett has been here since November, living at 4508 Strathmore with two children, a 6th grader and a 4th grader.

We welcome all our newcomers and apologize for any misinformation. Some town advice: don't park your cars on the street when it snows! The snowplow can't get through. And enjoy the sledding hill, Argyle Avenue, which is closed to traffic at the top and bottom whenever it snows.

Also, if you have any news that you would like to share with the town through the *Bugle*, send it to Mary Moyer, Box 98 (see box, p 2, for more contact information).

Foundation and Nursery School

It appears that there is some confusion over the relationship between the GPES Education Foundation and the issue of the GP Nursery School and the property on which it sits (see article, p 8). The GPES Education Foundation has no role in the nursery school matter, and in fact, the foundation is prohibited from any lobbying by its bylaws. To keep our nonprofit and nontaxable status, we must abide by those bylaws.

The foundation was formed to improve the quality of the educational environment for students, teachers, and staff at GPES. Such improvements might include enhancing the new school when it is built with new science equipment, a larger stage, new musical instruments; providing scholarships to teachers to attend conferences and to lower income students for tutors; and providing supplemental funds to make the new school become LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified as an environmentally friendly school. (The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.)

I encourage any member of the community with questions to contact me or one of our other board members: Maria Perozek, Colleen Kelly, Jerry Pannullo, or Heather Down. For more information and to contribute to the foundation, you can also visit our Web site at www.gpesef.org.

Barbara Ferry, Foundation chair

Knit One, Cure One

Join us at the first Knit One, Cure One craft fair to raise money for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. One of a kind fiberworks, scarves and more! All proceeds of the sale will go directly to the walk. All of us have neighbors, friends, and family affected by breast cancer. Now you can shop for beautiful gifts and make a difference in the lives of women in our area!

The Avon walk raises about \$5 million each year in this area. Funds go to build and sustain organizations in the D.C. metropolitan area (80 percent of funds raised are returned to the cause). Last year, funds resulted in awards to the cancer vaccine program at Hopkins; the Capital Breast Care Center, a clinic in Southeast D.C. that provides comprehensive screening and care for uninsured women; and Food for Friends, an organization that provides meals and support for those undergoing chemotherapy. More information is available at www.avonwalk.org.

The fair is being held on Saturday, November 17, from noon to 5 pm at 10716 Montrose Avenue. Contact Jeanne Mandelblatt if you would like to donate crafts or items that can be auctioned or perhaps make some cookies or cake to serve.

Come! Shop! Make a difference!

Jacqueline Brunschwyler

Jacqueline Rouleau Brunschwyler died July 4, 2007, following a two-year struggle with lymphoma but after a good life here in Garrett Park since 1966—over half her lifetime.

She was born July 10, 1933, in Burlingame, California, and grew up there in the shadow of San Francisco. Music very early became a major part of her life—her father would have to tell her to take a break from piano practice. She earned BA in music (piano) at San Jose State. Concertizing did not develop, so she taught in elementary school for two years, before skipping off to Europe, where she spent a year teaching at a U.S. Army School in the “historique et pittoresque” port city of La Rochelle in western France—where I, her future husband, was stationed.

When I left for a pediatric residency, she followed me, to my good fortune—to *Buffalo*! It wasn’t that bad for her—she had a big llama fur coat to wear while walking the 7 or 8 blocks to the elementary school. The snows finally did melt, a crisp spring arrived, and I splurged on an orchid for Easter. Then as we walked down Linwood Avenue to the cathedral, it started to snow, and Jacquie started to cry. The California in that girl had finally caught up.

We came to the Washington area in 1962; we were introduced to Garrett Park in 1966, by Jane and Paul Gonson. She designed that house with the haphazardly placed old bricks at Kenilworth and Clyde; he was a town councilman. With three children and one on the way, we settled into a “big ugly house that sat sideways on too small a lot”—the neighbors’ opinion, as we later learned. After the “one” on the way became twins, we felt fortunate to have that big house, and we loved it.

Despite five children and a needy husband, Jacquie quickly became part of the community, with many friends made through neighbors, the GP elementary school, and Holy Cross Church. But after her exposure to serious music through her studies and the concerts and operas of San Francisco, she felt a dearth of music in the area (the Kennedy Center did not open until 1971). To the rescue came opportunities for playing. She participated in small ensembles here in GP—I remember Newton Blakslee with his viola da gamba and Alan Dittman on the violin (he was perhaps better known for his orchids). She also accompanied for *Oliver!*, performed by the elementary school students, and for a world-class violinist in the town hall, in a performance that satisfied them both. Further to fill the void, and with the pipe organ at Holy Cross tempting her with its siren call, she began serious study of the organ. In 1977 she became the church organist, thrilled to play the fine Reuter two-manual pipe organ, which was well suited to the space and is a joy to experience. Curiously, the job led this non-activist into church politics: she found herself on the liturgy committee—an experience that prob-

ably had something to do with her leaving the position in 1983.

To keep the hands and feet busy, Jacquie took up weaving with Mary Alice Hearn, two blocks away. Mary Alice not only was a master weaver and teacher, she also gave a spiritual bent to her work—thus helping Jacquie keep both body and mind active. And anyway, the loom room nicely filled up space with our kids going off to college.

When our son Conrad took his life in 1994, I don’t know how Jacquie and I could have gone on without the support of our Garrett Park community. We needed all that sweetness, compassion, and empathy, and the kindness was extended when people continued to remember Conrad to us. This was the time the Lunch Bunch started, or restarted, with the thought to help a friend in her grief. Although you did not really have to be Catholic, a Holy Cross parishioner, or a mother of many to be a part of this large and lively group, take note of some of the members: Ann Owens (6 kids), Joan Schosinski (5 kids), Ida Sullivan (4 kids), Pat Abernathy (8 kids), Kathy Gagnon (9 kids), and Jacquie (6 kids).

Carolyn Shawaker was also a friend, supporter, and soul mate for Jacquie through all the family ups and downs, ever since turning the pages for her at the organ—and in particular in the past two years, while Jacquie struggled with cancer. Our neighbor, Tina Daub (Dentil), was another boon to Jacquie, as she brought her special creativity and spiritual friendship.

In the 80s, as I was nearing retirement, Jacquie and I agreed with a lady we heard on NPR who said “we would stay together forever and ever, but never for lunch.” So with Strathmore Hall blossoming as an arts and music center, Jacquie volunteered in the gift shop, which was under the direction of a marvelous lady, Kitty Barclay (Clermont Avenue). Jacquie quickly felt herself an integral part of the center, developing mutual respect, love, and friendship with her colleagues. It was a wonderful time, and with the opening of the Concert Hall in 2005, she was on a cloud.

At Jacquie’s funeral, Strathmore CEO Eliot Pfanstiehl spoke of the wisdom, support, humor, and guidance that she brought for over 20 years: “And if you want to be with Jacquie, I offer you Strathmore, where every smile, and every grace, and every hospitality offered to strangers and friends, every moment of musical wonder has Jacquie in it ... she set a standard that will not be forgotten.”

The family thanks the community for its caring. Survivors include husband Philip (Garrett Park); a sister, Sister Mary Celeste Rouleau, R.S.M. (Burlingame); five children, Katherine Plaut (Reisterstown), Greta (Bend, Oregon), John (Garrett Park), Lea Jessup (Clarksburg), and Emily Horick (Silver Spring); and 11 grandchildren.

Philip Brunschwyler

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Count Almy has decided to hang up his cape and fangs and forgo the pleasure of coming out of his casket this Halloween. He and Mary Kay have delighted in scaring children and adults alike for many past years. The casket will be put to good use elsewhere, and the decorations put into storage. The Count bids adieu to his yearly visitors.
- ♪ The Rodes family is looking for a good home for a 7 volume set of *The International Library of Music for Home and Studio*. These volumes (published in 1925) include "One Hundred Greatest Compositions for the Piano." They are in good condition, well organized, and indexed by composer and title. If you can't use them yourself, perhaps you know someone who might enjoy them. Please call 301-946-0964 ASAP if you have any interest in this set.
- ♪ Condolences to the family of Aram Yacoub Balekjian of Kenilworth Avenue who died on September 20. He leaves behind his wife Berjoutie, and children Annie Switzer, Hagop, and Hratch. The funeral was held at the Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church on September 26, and he was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the church (4906 Flint Dr., Bethesda, MD 20816).
- ♪ The Post Office staff would like to remind you to *please* have your correspondents use your Post Office Box number when they write to you. Also, holiday mail for overseas should start going out the first of December.
- ♪ Condolences to Mary Moyer and her family on the death of her second sister, Nan Fisk, on September 28, following a hip operation. Nan lived in Brevard, North Carolina, and leaves her son Stan and his wife Kathy in Frederick, Maryland. Mary says that this being the third person who has died in her family this year because of a broken hip, she is going to try not to fall down.

Eating Locally, Acting Globally

Sometimes global warming can seem, well, overwhelming, but in fact there is a lot that all of us can do that cumulatively can make a big difference. Did you know, for example, that on average, every mouthful of food that is grown more than 500 miles away from where it is consumed has traveled about 1473 miles?

With that in mind, it seems appropriate to recognize Tim Derstein and his family for their dedication through 11 years of bringing us a wonderful Farmers' Market. In that time they have missed only *one* scheduled Saturday, and that was due to a flood that caused road closures. When the roads opened up, the family made the trip to Garrett Park on the following Monday!

The Dersteins live in Three Springs, Pennsylvania, in the South Central Mountains. Tim explained that he has 15 acres on his farm in vegetables. He has 5 people helping him; two are hired help and the rest are his family. He grows tomatoes, arugula, pea shoots, peppers, red raspberries, and lettuce, and he uses organic pesticides like pyrethrum (derived from chrysanthemums), liquid soap, and copper to control early blight on his tomatoes.

Tim is a member of the Tuscarora Organic Growers Co-op, which includes 25 farmers from Pennsylvania and West Virginia. With six colleagues, he has made several trips to China over the past 5 years to share hospitality, friendship, and information with Chinese farmers. Their last trip, in April 2006, included visits to Hong Kong, Beijing, northeast China, and Mongolia. Tim mentioned that the average Chinese farm consists of 2 acres, and crops include wheat, rice, and different greens, including bokchoi. According to Tim, Chinese peach orchards are renowned.

In China, Tim observed that, instead of irrigation, the farmers level all their fields and then flood them. Tim was also interested in how the Chinese build high tunnels instead of greenhouses. They do not use any fans or heat in these tunnels; instead, they build south-facing walls so that the sun heats the ground and the walls. At night, they cover the young plants with mats made of rice stalks, which they then remove during the day. Tim plans to bring some photos to the market soon.

We in town can rejoice that we are lucky enough to have the Dersteins and their magnificent produce as part of our lives. When you buy locally, you *are* helping to mitigate global warming! Patronizing the Dersteins' kind of farming operation fits right into the kind of awareness supported by our town and GP Climate Action Now (see article, p 10).

Barbara Rodes

Don't you wish you could stop time?

We Can!

Les Henig
PHOTOGRAPHY

301-933-5762

www.LesHenig.com



Letter from the Mayor

Good news for everyone who is tired of pot-holes. The Request for Proposals is out for the street deep repairs. Several contractors have asked for the plans. The bids are due October 26, so we are hopeful that the work will be done "before the snow flies."

On September 26, the Assistant City Manager of Gaithersburg and I (as president of the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League) met with County Council President Marilyn Praisner to discuss the county's and municipalities' concerns about the state budget situation. The following day I was invited to come to Annapolis and meet with the Governor to discuss his budget proposals. The state budget has a substantial impact on both county and local governments revenues, so we will be watching the budget process very closely.

On October 15, the Town Council and I will meet with the Kensington Council and Mayor in work session to do joint planning as well as to explore ways that we can work together for the benefit of both towns.

On October 18 to 20, I will be attending the fall convention of the Maryland Municipal League with Councilmembers Hansen, Berry, and Mandel.

I have a serious concern that I want to share with you. The Betsy White Emergency Loan Fund has been able to help several of our fellow residents in the last year. Unfortunately the fund is quite low of funds these days. The Emergency Loan Fund was established in 1969 by the Women's Club of Garrett Park and renamed in 1973 as a memorial to Betsy White, an officer and beloved member of the Women's Club. The purpose of the fund is to provide emergency financial assistance to residents of the town when other resources are not available. The loans are interest free, and repaid when and if that is possible. Please consider making a donation by sending a check to Town of Garrett Park, Box 84, Garrett Park, MD 20896 and mark it "Betsy White Fund." Your donation is tax deductible, and the town will send you a letter confirming your donation.

Carolyn Shawaker

GIVES Continues Support to DC Homeless

For over 30 years, Garrett Park's Intercommunity Voluntary Experiment in Sharing (GIVES) has collected donations from community members monthly at the post office. Until recently that money—over \$130,000 to date—has been divided equally between American Friends Service Committee, which primarily works internationally to relieve poverty, and Zacchaeus Community Kitchen, which served breakfast to homeless individuals in downtown D.C.

Earlier this year, we learned that Zacchaeus was no longer operating. Happily, the services it offered were being taken over by the Dinner Program for Homeless Women (DPHW), headed up by Executive Director Erika Barry. Most Zacchaeus donors have transferred their support to DPHW.

This summer, Glenda Ingham and I had the great pleasure of meeting Ms. Barry and her staff and seeing the DPHW program first hand. We were very impressed. The staff was respectful to the clientele, and the services were extensive. Homeless men, women, and families can stay in touch with families via e-mail or print out resumes from the computer lab, get help with homework, take hot showers, receive mail at the facility, do laundry, and sign up for a variety of counseling services and job training. A hot dinner is available to women and children, and breakfast is open to all.

DPHW appreciates our monetary support, of course, but they are also looking for volunteers to help in the kitchen or other areas. One easy way for GIVES to assist is to collect "travel size" shampoos, soaps, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes,

disposable razors, and other personal items when we have our monthly collection. Speaking of monthly collections, GIVES is looking for volunteers to give 2 hours of time once a year to sit at the post office. Contact Glenda Ingham if you are interested—this is an easy way to help a worthwhile cause and greet your Garrett Park neighbors on a Saturday!

The DPHW Web site is www.dphw.org. The organization is sponsoring the Help the Homeless Walkathon that will take place on the Mall on November 17. You can sign up to walk or to make a contribution—100 percent of the gift goes to DPHW.

Thanks for everyone's support, and if you have a chance to visit the Dinner Program for Homeless Women, I believe you'll find it inspiring.

Karen Anderson



A Big Thank You

... from the Garrett Park Nursery School
“Save Our School” Task Force!

As some of you may know, the Garrett Park Estates Recreation Center has housed the Garrett Park Nursery School for over 50 years. In late June, staff of the Montgomery County Department of Parks and Planning presented a preliminary report to the Planning Board recommending the transfer of the building to Montgomery County Public Schools, as well as the transfer or demolition of four other recreation facilities. No one at the nursery school was consulted during Parks and Planning’s investigative process; in fact, our first knowledge of the report and its recommendations came from an article in the *Washington Post*. We have since learned that if the building and property are transferred to MCPS, the building will be demolished and paved over as part of the reconstruction of the Garrett Park Elementary School.

The staff report also recommended that the Garrett Park Nursery School be moved to a “more suitable location.” The department’s initial proposal of such a location was the historic schoolhouse (near the Garrett Park Elementary School) that currently houses the Montgomery Child Care Association’s pre-K and before and after care programs.

We wanted to thank all those in the community who have sought to support the nursery school and preserve its special home. The outpouring of support has been fantastic. Councilmember Hans Wegner placed the nursery school issue on the September Town Council meeting’s agenda. Councilmember Beth Irons made a motion at that meeting directing the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee to explore seeking a historical designation for the building. Also in September, at a public forum held at the elementary school, many members of the community voiced their opposition to the demolition of the building. They told stories about the community support that resulted in the building of what was then known as the Garrett Park Community Center—how members of Women’s Club started a fund for the building; the Department of Parks built the foundation on land that had been donated by the school system; and town residents donated their labor, funds, and materials to make the Community Center a reality. Community members also told how the building housed the Town Library, which was later consolidated with six other independent libraries to be the first countywide public library system. Former and current families of students at the nursery school spoke eloquently about the value of the school to the community and the need to preserve it.

At the forum, representatives from MCPS indicated that if the property were transferred to MCPS, it would not change the footprint of the already planned new school. Instead, they would

incorporate the property by demolishing the building and paving it over to be used as a parking lot, a bus turnaround, or paved playground space.

Before the public forum, the Save our School Task Force hosted an open house at the Nursery School so that interested parties could see for themselves the building that the Parks Department wants to demolish. We are grateful that so many people came to the open house and public forum. Special thanks to Mayor Carolyn Shawaker, Councilmembers Hans Wegner and Beth Irons, County Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and Roger Berliner, and State Delegates Bill Frick and Bill Bronrott (District 16).

Last week, at the October Garrett Park Elementary School PTA meeting, the group voted to support efforts to keep the Garrett Park Nursery School in its current building. They also voted to urge the Parks Department to consider donating some of the department’s land behind the current building to MCPS for the reconstruction. Many voiced their concern about the proposal to move the nursery school into the MCCA building—space they anticipate needing even after the school reconstruction. We greatly appreciate the support of the GPES PTA.

The fight to save the nursery school building is far from over. The Department of Parks and Planning is scheduled to make its final recommendations in January, upon which the Planning Board will vote in February. The department is still seeking comment on its proposal to transfer/demolish the building. Please visit our Web site, where we have set up a system to quickly and easily send a letter opposing this plan to the relevant elected officials: www.garrettparknurseryschool.org (click on Save Our School) or go directly to citizenspeak.org/node/1138.

We are grateful to the many people who have already used the Web site or contacted officials on their own. The Parks Department is holding a number of public meetings over the next few months on the transfer/demolition of the five recreation buildings. Please consider attending them. For a complete list, please visit our Web site.

Tara M. Flynn, Angela B. Melton,
Task Force Co-Chairs,
savegpnstaskforce@gmail.com

FOR SALE. Allen organ, 2 manual, full pedalboard, with all the bells and whistles of a theatre organ. \$1200 or best offer. Call Mary (301-933-5764).

Petition Presented

On Thursday, September 20, the Mayor of Takoma Park and several citizens from Takoma Park, Garrett Park, and Kensington (about 15 in all) met with Representative Chris Van Hollen in the Longworth House Office Building to present the Takoma Park Council's resolution calling on the Congress to institute impeachment proceedings against President Bush and Vice President Cheney. The Takoma Park Council approved a resolution on impeachment; the Garrett Park Council had approved only a motion to hold a referendum, but the results of the petition to the Garrett Park Town Council were offered to Mr. Van Hollen as well. (A little background: According to the U.S. Constitution, impeachment is a decision by a simple majority of the House similar to a grand jury indictment. After an impeachment decision, two-thirds of the Senate must vote for removal. No other penalties are involved.)

After presentations by those present, Representative Van Hollen responded that while he shares many of the concerns expressed, he had certain reservations:

- A two-thirds vote by the Senate would not happen.
- Even a majority vote by the House might fail, which would put the President in a better position and impact the 2008 election.
- Congress is investigating many of the issues that might form the basis for impeachment.
- Impeachment proceedings would distract Congress from legislation on important domestic issues.
- An effort to impeach both Bush and Cheney would look like an attempted Democratic coup.

He was willing to meet again. Truly we live in interesting times.

Jim Agenbroad

More Signatures Needed

About two dozen town residents and neighbors gathered quietly at the Town Hall on Friday evening, October 5, to view a video of a provocative PBS program in which Bill Moyers interviewed Bruce Fein, a conservative constitutional scholar, and John Nichols, an editor at *The Nation*, on the subject of impeachment. Originally aired last July, the program decries the failure of Congress to check the power of the executive and makes a strong case for impeachment as a cure for what was convincingly described as a constitutional crisis in our country—excessive and abusive executive power—exactly the condition that impeachment was designed by the founding fathers to address. The audience was remarkably quiet and attentive throughout the video (with

the exception of an occasional groan or chuckle). Afterwards, while participants munched on peach cookies, there was some discussion about what could be done to advance the cause. Representative Chris Van Hollen has already been presented with a copy of 104 signatures gathered to date on a petition to the Town Council, but he was not inclined to take any action. It was decided to continue gathering signatures. Several people volunteered to help with this effort. A request for donations quickly produced sufficient money to purchase a copy of the video (which had been borrowed) to further spread its message. Someone suggested setting up a table at the Attic in the Street to gather more signatures and possibly show the video. The feeling in the room that something must be done was overwhelming.

Ken Ingham

Impeachment Nonsense

In response to Mr. Warren Kornberg's letter to the editor and to the many other like-"minded" residents who feel that the town of Garrett Park should send some kind of demand for impeachment proceedings against President George W. Bush, let me try to sort out some of this Joseph Goebbels' inspired nonsense:

1. An "unconstitutional presidential war"? Is Mr. Kornberg et al. ignorant of or simply ignoring the historical fact that the U.S. Congress passed a resolution authorizing the military action in Iraq? This includes most of the front runners in the past and upcoming Presidential elections.

2. "Torture"? If Mr. Kornberg is referring to the detainees at Guantanamo, I would certainly like to know what "torture" they are undergoing? They have access to their religious material, eat better than their guards, and are treated far better than U.S. soldiers who have been convicted of relatively minor crimes and sent to the stockade. If he is referring to Abu Ghraib, the personnel involved were arrested, tried, and punished as their actions were *not* authorized!

3. Though he has not brought up one of the biggest lies of the left, that Mr. Bush lied about weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), let us clear the air on that one also. I was an Intelligence Analyst in the Army many years ago. If I had been asked to make an evaluation of whether the late and unlamented Saddam Hussein had WMDs or was working on them, based upon his words and actions, I would have said, "Hell yes!" In this I would have been in agreement with the UN and most of the European governments. Saddam had quite a bit of time under Mr. Clinton to move or hide the evidence. Friends of mine who have served in Iraq the past several years have absolutely no doubt that the technology was there. Given the historical fact that Saddam used a form of WMD, nerve gas, to kill innocent Kurd civil-

(continued next page)

ians, one has to wonder if those who say there were no WMDs are really that amnesic.

4. Unlike most of the people behind this impeachment nonsense, I have had the honor and privilege of serving in the American military. I have friends who have been sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, are there now, or are getting ready to redeploy there. Overwhelmingly, these people, who are risking their lives in front-line units, are sick of the left-wing, cut and run, liberal defeatism circus that takes place over here. They know it hurts their morale and strengthens the enemy's. It is *not* supporting the troops whatsoever. If this same attitude, as pursued by the "Copperheads," had been allowed to run rampant in 1863, the Confederacy would be alive and well, and slavery might still be in place on this continent.

5. I find it disgusting that the Town Council, the Mayor, and its left-wing junta would not stand up to our state "representatives" in order to have reasonable traffic calming measures put into place on Strathmore Avenue after a child was killed, but all of a sudden they have a *huge* surplus of false courage in making this meaningless partisan gesture to the President.

6. If anyone should be "impeached," it is that very same Town Council and Mayor. Despite two, count them, two defeated resolutions on allowing foreign nationals to vote in town elections, the town "leadership," in a flagrant and appalling abuse of power, simply declared the votes null and void and passed a resolution allowing foreign nationals to vote in the town elections. When objections were raised about this, it was stated that it would be "nice" to let them vote and since it was only allowing voting in town elections it was not a problem.

7. *However:* Since this impeachment nonsense is being put to a vote *and* that vote will be sent to our *federal* representatives, in effect, we are giving federal voting power and voice to foreign nationals on federal matters, thus diluting, and one might say corrupting, any resolution issuing from Garrett Park. For this reason, I would demand that our representatives ignore any and all such resolutions from Garrett Park until the U.S. Justice Department has investigated their merit.

8. Finally, I do not like many of President Bush's policies. I feel he has failed the country in several key aspects, but this ridiculous resolution, a mere propaganda tool, would do more harm to our troops who are in harm's way rather than to the President and that is something I, and any true supporter of our troops, cannot and should not tolerate.

And no, I didn't take your ridiculous petitions.

Raymond G. Logan

Let There Be Light!

You have probably seen a number of articles recently encouraging you to switch from standard incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescents. Do they really make a difference to our environment? The answer is yes, if handled properly. A 15-watt fluorescent bulb can last for up to 10,000 hours, compared to about 1,500 hours for a standard incandescent bulb or 3,000 hours for halogen bulb. Therefore, while regular bulbs are much less expensive up front, over a 3-year period (taking into account the cost of electricity), using incandescent bulbs costs more than twice as much as using fluorescents.

What does all this mean in the long run? Replacing all of your incandescent bulbs with fluorescents reduces your energy consumption for lighting by 75 percent and your total consumption by 9 percent, making it one of the easiest ways to "go green."

Some people have expressed concern about the fact that compact fluorescent bulbs contain small amounts of mercury, which is extremely hazardous for people and the environment. Proper disposal of burned out or broken bulbs is critical. They should *not* be placed in regular trash disposal. These bulbs can be recycled, and fortunately, the Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station accepts them (call 240-777-6410 for the schedule). If there is enough interest, the Garrett Park Climate Action Now (CAN) committee may organize collection and drop-off.

The Committee is meeting on October 29, at 4406 Oxford Street, the home of Jennifer Sass. Please let her know if you would like to join us! In the meantime, if you have suggestions or comments for this column, please contact Lisa Kaeser.

GPES

One of our kindergarten teachers got married on a recent weekend. Samantha Schenker and Roland Yarrington are now husband and wife. We have two more weddings coming in the future months, and two babies waiting to be born around the New Year. Must be something in the water!

Halloween is almost upon us. The parade through the neighborhood (Oxford, Kenilworth, Oxford, Montrose, Oxford, U-turn Clermont, and back) will begin from the GPES parking lot (weather permitting) around 1:30 pm. The school will be joined by children from the co-op nursery, the day care center, and Holy Cross Elementary. That's over 600 children!

The school is looking for adult translators and secondary students who can volunteer with various activities throughout the year. Come by the office for a volunteer form to fill out.

Mary Moyer